

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 295470

61

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SSO-00

INRE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 /024 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:TJWAJDA:PP

APPROVED BY EA/EEDMOND

EA/ANP:RLWILLIAMS

EA/P:MSMITH

DOD/ISA/FMRA:PBARRINGER

DOD/ISA:LTC. GDOUSE

PM/ISO:JSCOTT

NAVELEC SYSTEM COM:MR. VASS

----- 123036

O R 032341Z DEC 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

SECDEF

CNO

COGARD

CHESNAVFACENGCOM

CINCPAC

NAVELECSYSCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 295470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, MARR, ETRN

SUBJECT: OMEGA AUSTRALIA

REF: A) CANBERRA 8722 (DTG 030443Z DEC 76) (NOTAL)

B) WAJDA-PERCIVAL TELEPHONE CONVERSATION 12/1/76

1. DEPARTMEHT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S CONCERN THAT  
POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFORTS TO LAY GROUND  
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PAGE 02 STATE 295470

WORK FOR OMEGA AGREEMENT NOT BE UNDERMINED BY

COMPOSITION OF OMEGA NEGOTIATING TEAM. THERE APPEARS TO BE A VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT REINERTSON'S DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA WILL RESULT IN RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEM AREAS IN DRAFT AGREEMENT. COAST GUARD CMDR. HERBERT AND OTHER TECHNICAL PERSONNEL EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO RESOLVE SEVERAL ISSUES INCLUDING WHO SHOULD HAVE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ANTENNA.

2. A RECAP OF OMEGA NEGOTIATING HISTORY APPEARS TO BE IN ORDER. AS OMEGA CONSTRUCTION FUNDING WAS (AND IS) PART OF DOD BUDGET, AUGUST 1968 CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE AND CONCLUDE OMEGA AGREEMENTS WORLDWIDE

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DESIGNATED DOD/ISA/FMRA AS USG NEGOTIATOR. DESIGNATION REMAINS IN FORCE AND DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA IN WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN LED BY DOD/ISA/FMRA. GOA EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ARE BOTH WELL AWARE OF THIS FACT. TRADITIONALLY, FMRA NEGOTIATOR HAS BEEN AN FSO ON EXCHANGE TO DOD. JOHN REINERTSON IS PRESENT INCUMBENT IN THAT POSITION.

3. IF QUERIED CONCERNING OMEGA TEAM, EMBASSY SHOULD USE FOLLOWING:

QUOTE YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. NIXON, ANNOUNCED IN MARCH THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO DRAW UP A DRAFT OMEGA AGREEMENT. WE HAVE RECEIVED THAT DRAFT AND AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL, MR. JOHN REINERTSON, IS HERE TO NEGOTIATE IT WITH AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS. END QUOTE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS, EMBASSY SPOKESMAN MAY STATE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO COMMENT FURTHER INASMUCH AS THE AGREEMENT IS NOT YET FINAL.

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PAGE 03 STATE 295470

5. IF PRESSED AS TO WHY TEAM IS LED BY DOD OFFICIAL, SPOKESMAN SHOULD USE FOLLOWING:

QUOTE ORIGINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OMEGA PROGRAM WAS GIVEN TO THE US NAVY AS THE ONLY USG ENTITY WITH THE REQUISITE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO GET THE PROJECT UNDERWAY WORLDWIDE. IT HAS BEEN AGREED SINCE 1970 THAT THE PROJECT WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE US COAST

GUARD (A BRANCH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION)  
AS SOON AS CONSTRUCTION WAS COMPLETED. IN FACT,  
THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM  
IS CONDUCTED BY THE COAST GUARD WHICH HAS STATUTORY  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATION AND COORDINATION OF  
NAVIGATION AIDS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT FULL MANAGERIAL  
AND BUDGETARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATION AND  
MAINTENANCE OF THE ENTIRE SYSTEM WILL BE TURNED OVER  
TO THE COAST GUARD 0Y 1979 OR 1980. END QUOTE  
EMBASSY SHOULD COORDINATE ABOVE STATEMENTS WITH  
REINERTSON AND HERBERT. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, OMEGA, NEGOTIATIONS, VISITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 DEC 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1976STATE295470  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TJWAJDA:PP  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OMEGA AUSTRALIA  
**TAGS:** MARR, ETRN, AS, US  
**To:** CANBERRA  
**Type:** TE  
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